REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 7 10, 13 and 16 are amended herein. Support for the amendments is found, for example, on page 24, line 1 to page 27, line 3, page 31, line 17 to page 32, line 11 and page 34 (compounds [OS-8], [OS-9] and [OS-10]. Also, the term "general formula" has been changed to simply "formula" for editorial purposes without changing the scope of the claims. No new matter is added. Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-18 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Oshima (EP 1176467 A1).

Applicants respectfully submit that Oshima does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Independent claims 1, 7 and 13 are amended herein to further define the invention. The planographic precursors of the present claims 1-18 comprise a specific cyanine dye as an infrared absorbing agent, and comprise a specific triarylsulfonium salt as a sulfonium salt polymerization initiator. The cyanine dye has an $-NPh_2$ group in the X^1 position of the molecular structure, and the triarylsulfonium salt is substituted with a chlorine atom. Oshima discloses neither of these components in the negative working photosensitive lithographic printing plate. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are not anticipated by Oshima.

Applicants further submit that in the field of photopolymerization chemistry, a high-sensitive polymerization initiating system is achieved depending on the combination of a light absorbing agent and a polymerization initiator. The present invention uses a specific combination of two components, neither of which are taught or suggested by Oshima.

In addition, in the field of photopolymerization chemistry, when using a highly sensitive polymerization initiating system, the sensitivity of the system is inversely proportional to raw stock storability (that is the higher the sensitivity, the lower the raw stock storability, and the lower the sensitivity, the higher the raw stock storability). High sensitivity and high raw stock storability are difficult to achieve simultaneously. It is an object of the present invention to eliminate this trade-off relation problem between the two important properties.

In the present invention, an especially high sensitive polymerization initiating system as recited in the amended claims is used in combination with a support having a specific structural feature (Ra=0.35-0.55 μm). As a result, high sensitivity and high raw stock storability are simultaneously achieved, which is shown in Examples 1-3 (Table 1) of the specification.

Oshima neither teaches nor suggests the above method using the combination of the photosensitive layer containing the abovementioned two specific components and the support having a specific structural feature (Ra=0.35-0.55 μm). Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the disclosure of Oshima with a reasonable expectation of success in achieving the presently claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious over Oshima. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection over Oshima.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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